

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

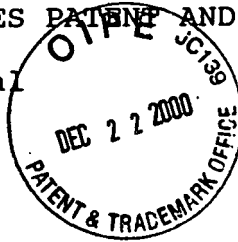
Applicant: Williamson, et al

Examiner: P. Prebilic

Serial No: 09/306,448

Art Unit: 3738

Filed: 05/06/99



Title: MEANS AND METHOD OF REPLACING A HEART
VALVE IN A MINIMALLY INVASIVE MANNER

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

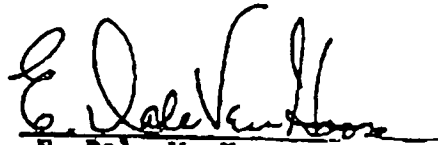
Sir:

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. Section 1.132

Dear Sir:

1. E. Dale VanHoose declares as follows.
2. I am the co-inventor of the invention claimed in US Patent 6,042,607.
3. However, the invention that is the subject matter of Claims 1-20 of application serial number 09/306,448 was the invention of the inventors named in application serial number 09/306,448.
4. Furthermore, the subject matter that is disclosed in US Patent 6,042,607 and that is claimed in claims 1-20 of application serial number 09/306,448 was derived from the inventors named in application serial number 09/306,448.
5. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true; that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the

United States Code and that such willful false statements may
jeopardize the validity of the above-identified application and
any patent resulting therefrom.


E. Dale VanHoose

Date: 12/20/00